

CARTER COURIER

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LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

This week was a slow one in Congress as we discussed flood insurance, and a small business investment bill. More contentious was the Democrats' SCHIP bill that offers government healthcare to families earning up to \$80,000 a year, including benefits to illegal immigrants.

In addition, I introduced a resolution condemning the act of vandalism at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial which occurred earlier this month. I held a press conference with several of my House colleagues to condemn all acts of vandalism against monuments dedicated to our servicemen and women. It is my eager hope that those who committed this crime will be found and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

As always, I thank all of you in the 31st District for the opportunity to serve you in Congress and I look forward to advancing the conservative principles that make Central Texas so great.

Until next week,

A GUIDE TO CONSTITUENT SERVICES

As your Representative in Congress, I consider it one of my greatest duties and highest pleasures to work closely with my constituents. My priority is to provide you with the best representation and constituent services possible. Each of you has a wide variety of services available to you through my office. We handle many constituent issues ranging from Capitol tours and internships, to solving problems with federal agencies and flag requests. Whatever the need, I want you to know that my staff and I are here to help you with any problems or questions you may have.

Nothing thrills me more than seeing Texans in Washington, D.C. The next time you plan a trip to Washington, please call my office and let us schedule a staff guided tour of the Capitol. Capitol tours give you the opportunity to view the home of our republic and learn about its significance and history. My staff has been trained by the U.S. Capitol tour guide service to help give you the best possible experience while you are touring our nation's capitol.

Internships are an exciting and challenging way to learn more about the political process. College interns are important to the

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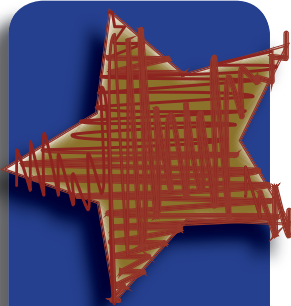
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successful operation of my office. They are the voice and face of the office to many constituents, as they help answer the phones and greet constituents when they visit my offices. They also have the opportunity to assist the staff by writing letters, attending briefings and doing research. Flexible internships for college students are available in my Texas and Washington offices.

While not everyone is able to visit Washington, D.C. or take advantage of our intern program, each of you is faced with difficult situations on a day to day basis. One of the most requested services is help with federal agencies. My office works hard to assist you as an advocate or contact within the federal government. Types of case include aid in dealing with government programs, such as Medicare or Social Security, and investigating concerns of military service members. If you have a concern which you believe I can help alleviate please do not hesitate to contact my office.

My Washington, D.C. office offers a unique service that gives you the chance to order a flag that has flown over the United States Capitol. You can order a flag for yourself or request that it be flown in someone's honor or to mark a certain occasion. It takes time to process the request, so please keep that in mind.

Whether it is resolving casework, facilitating visits to Washington, D.C., or offering internships to college students, I spend each day as your Representative serving you. These avenues of service give me lines of communication with my constituents and keep me in closer touch with the opinions and Central Texas.

LISTEN TO MY WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS

Please click on the link below to listen to my most recent weekly radio address that was sent to local radio and television stations. In this address I discuss the recent vandalism of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and a resolution I introduced in Congress to condemn the action.

<http://carter.house.gov/multimedia/>

HARKER HEIGHTS STUDENTS VISIT WASHINGTON

This week I met with two Harker Heights High School students to discuss current issues affecting the United States. Donald Lee and Kiyoko Davis traveled to Washington, D.C. as part of the National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC). As part of their conference activities, Donald and Kiyoko visited my office to see a glimpse into the day-to-day work on Capitol Hill.

I am so honored to have bright and outgoing students like Donald and Kiyoko in my district. It is always encouraging to see meet with young people who participate and care about what goes on in Congress. These students are the next generation of public leaders, and I look forward to seeing the possibilities and promise these two will bring to our country.

Among the topics we discussed were immigration reform, the war in Iraq and the recent vandalism of the Vietnam Memorial. The lack of media coverage and congressional attention that they saw regarding the vandalism was especially troubling to them.

During the National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC) Donald and Kiyoko took part in a variety of simulated government activities which are designed to familiarize them with all the branches of our government.

NYLC gives high-achieving sophomores, juniors and seniors a greater understanding of their roles in our republic and the responsibilities of leadership. As these students meet with the men and women who shape laws and policies, they gain an inside perspective on key issues. Through interaction with Cabinet secretaries, members of Congress, diplomats, lobbyists, journalists and academicians, NYLC scholars receive direct experience and guidance that cannot be found in textbooks.



CONDEMNING VANDALISM AT VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL

This week I was joined today by veterans and members of Congress to publicly condemn the vandalism at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. The press conference, held Thursday, followed a House Resolution that I authored and was co-sponsored by 104 Republican and Democrat members of Congress.

The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial is one of the most meaningful and emotional monuments in Washington, D.C. People come from all over the world to pay their respects to the military men and women who gave their lives during the Vietnam War. What has happened here is a deplorable act against our military men and women, those who fought in the past and those who are currently fighting to protect our freedom. I hope we catch the cowards who did this, and I hope they are prosecuted and are thrown in jail. According to the National Park Service, 14 of the 140 panels were stained by an unidentified substance found on Sept. 7th. The Wall holds the names of 52,256 casualties and service members still missing in action during the Vietnam War.

"I can not fathom how anyone could justify such a heinous act against our veterans and their families," AMVETS National Commander John P. "J.P." Brown III, a Vietnam War veteran himself, said at the press conference. "From media reports, I gather this may have been seen by the perpetrators as a protest against the government and current military operations. If that is the case, these criminals are as uneducated as they are unpatriotic. This wall belongs to the people-not the government."

The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, which celebrates its 25th birthday this November, was paid for entirely through private contributions from veterans, foundations, unions, corporations, civic organizations and more that 275,000 individual Americans. No federal funds were used for its construction.

Members of Congress in attendance were Congressman Sam Johnson (TX-03), a U.S. Air Force Vietnam Veteran and a POW for seven years, Congressman Leonard Boswell (IA-03) who served in the U.S. Army, Congresswoman Heather Wilson (NM -01) who served in the U.S. Air Force, Congressman Steve Pearce (NM-02) who also served in the U.S. Air Force, Congressman Joe Wilson (SC-02) who was a member of the U.S. Army Reserves, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ-11) a U.S. Army Veteran, Congressman Chris Shays (CT-04), Congressman Randy Neugebauer (TX-19), Congressman Michael McCaul (TX-10), Congressman Ted Poe (TX-02), Congressman Tom Reynolds (NY-26), Congressman Todd Akin (MO-02), and Congressman Trent Franks (AZ-02).

DEMOCRATIC SCHIP BILL CONTAINS HIDDEN EARMARKS AND AIDS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

This week I opposed the Democrats' bill reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The program, originally created by Republicans in 1997, was designed to help children in low-income families obtain government health care. According to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the Democrat proposal would extend this coverage to families making up to \$83,000 a year, almost four times the poverty level.

I strongly support renewing the SCHIP program so that children in low-income families can have access to good health care, but I don't believe that the Democrat proposal to increase taxpayer-funded health care to families who make over \$80,000 is a step in the right direction. In fact, it is a huge step backwards. This bill not only provides government health care to upper-income families, but it also provides government benefits to adults, taking away limited resources from needy kids which the program was originally intended to protect.

I have long been an advocate against illegal immigration. This bill opens the door for SCHIP and Medicaid benefits for illegal immigrants by drastically weakening a requirement that persons applying for the benefits show proof of citizenship. In no way should we reward those who illegally come into America by paying for their health care at the expense of the taxpayer. If anything, this bill undermines our border security efforts and imposes a tax increase on legal hard-working Texans.
